

which claims the benefit of priority of European Patent Application No. 98201253.6 filed April 20, 1998, now European Patent No. EP 0957175 published November 17, 1999 and European Patent Application No. EP 19990916071 published January 31, 2001.--

REMARKS

Continued prosecution and consideration of the claimed subject matter in the accompanying patent application is respectfully requested.

I. The Amendments

The present Communication provides a substitute Specification and a clean copy of the currently-pending Claims for the present patent application that combines all of the Amendments that were previously requested on October 19, 2000, March 21, 2001 and March 21, 2002. Please enter the attached substitute copies of the specification and claims and continue prosecution thereupon.

SUMMARY

The present Communication and substitute Specification and Claims clarify and correct the reply and Amendment that was filed on March 21, 2002, a bona fide attempt to reply in the full to the Office Action of December 28, 2001, which was made in good faith and without deceptive intent.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

No fee or petition is believed to be necessary. However, should any further fee be needed, please charge our Deposit Account No. 23-0920, and deem this paper to be the required petition.

U.S. Serial No.: 09/673,779
Communication July 15, 2002

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Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this Communication, together with a substitute specification and claims, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mailing Label No. EV045460829US in an envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on November 21, 2002.

